

Group II: Claims 16-24, drawn to process for making semiconductor devices, classified in class 438, subclass 22+.

The Applicant respectfully selects with traverse the invention of Group I, as set forth in claims 13 - 15 for further prosecution.

It is believed that the present invention is directed to a unitary inventive concept, namely, a semiconductor wafer comprising a thin epitaxial silicon layer and method for producing same. It is believed that any search for the group embodied in claims 13-15 would necessarily include a search for the group embodied in 16-24. Thus, a simultaneous search for all of the groups is believed not to constitute an unreasonable search for the Patent Examiner. In addition, it is believed that the objectives of streamlined examination and compact prosecution would be promoted if a search were conducted simultaneously for all of the groups. Also, the necessity of filing multiple patent applications for the same invention does not serve to promote the public interest. This is because of the extra expense that is involved, in filing fees and examination costs, as well as the burden upon the public due to the necessity of searching through a multiplicity of patent files in order to find the complete range of subject matter claimed in several different patents that


could otherwise be found in one issued patent only.

Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional patent application for the non-elected invention.

For all these reasons, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121 be withdrawn and that an action on the merits of all the claims be rendered.

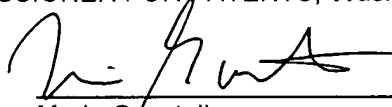
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, Washington, D.C. 20231 on OCTOBER 30, 2002.

  
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